

MI Child Support Formula - Changes to child support

From: <Eldridgemary@aol.com>
To: <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>
Date: 6/14/2003 9:14 PM
Subject: Changes to child support

To Whom It May Concern,

First, this requested public comment is frustratingly nearly impossible...after three times trying I cannot download the actual proposed changes. And to appear in Lansing on a Thursday morning is equally not happening. I am a licensed childcare provider, working out of my home. If I cancel work that morning three other moms are left in a quandry about childcare - and where do I put my own two sons? I can't afford the loss in income or the cost of childcare for my own.

Having said that, I will tell you why the proposed changes - of which I've only heard descriptions - are frightening to this divorced, custodial mother of a 7 year-old and a 4 year-old. One of the hardest aspects of being a custodial parent is that you must be available to your children. When there is sickness, doctor and dental visits, no-school days, no-school summers, extra-curricular classes, sports, church group commitments and on and on and on, the custodial parent must drop everything else in their life and be there for that child, those children. And the fact is, that availability costs money. Income is lost. Jobs are threatened. Bosses and clients must be extremely flexible. Most are not. The custodial parent is responsible in every possible way for her children - the non-custodial has only to live up to the visitation hours and the financial. For non-custodial fathers, much of that visitation is over-night hours. Very few inconvenient, un-planned emergencies popping up and disrupting his ability to provide income. His financial contribution is vital to his children's well-being. I believe it is nearly as equal in importance as his contribution of time. If he fulfills his visitation but neglects their foundational life, the stability and consistency that children need - then he is not being a responsible parent.

Do not reduce the current childcare support payments. Do not push the burden of providing health insurance and uninsured medical expenses onto custodial parents. We give enough. I do believe that for our children's sake, thank God we do. But we give enough.

Sincerely,

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